

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society.

NEWSLETTER No.270

July 1988

NEXT MEETING - Three Members Recount Their Experiences.

We are sorry that the talk planned for the 5th July by Charlie Newton on the subject of Auroral Propagation did not materialise, however, at short notice three of our members have volunteered to give half-hour talks on subjects close to their hearts.

1. 50MHz AND WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED - Les, G4CUT.

Being one of the original U.K. permit holders, Les has gained considerable experience on this most interesting band since its return for amateur use in February 1986.

In the beginning, commercial equipment was not readily available and the operating hours were very restricted but this did not deter Les from setting up a station and burning the midnight oil to make many worthwhile contacts.

Happily the work of Les and his compatriots has resulted in the general release of 'Six' and 'Four' to all classes of U.K. amateurs with the only remaining limitations being output power and horizontal polarization.

2. CONTESTS, AWARDS AND QSL's - Ela, G6HKM.

With six years of operating and seven log-books filled with thousands of contacts made on four bands, Ela can be said to have fully entered into the spirit of amateur radio.

Ela will describe how she keeps the paperwork under control for indexing, QSL cards, contest logs and the collecting of some treasured awards.

3. ANTENNAS FOR D.F. EVENTS - Paul, G0BTH.

For the uninitiated hunter, the finding of the antenna wire does not necessarily mean that you have found the hidden station! Paul will describe some of the variations (tricks) that hidden stations can provide to make the actual location of the hidden operator more challenging. Even for those members who are not into D.F., we are sure that you will find the anecdotes quite amusing.

The meeting will commence at 7.30pm at the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 5 July CLUB MEETING - Three Members Experiences.
- 16 July R.S.G.B. EXHIBITION - Have you booked your seat on the coach?
- 24 July ANGLIAN MOBILE RALLY - Colchester.
- 2 Aug. CLUB MEETING - R.S.G.B. Liaison, Ted G4TUO and The Nostalgia Night.
- 6 Sept CLUB MEETING - B.B.C. Essex, a description of the station.

NATIONAL FIELD DAY 1988 - Gwyn G4FKH.

Our event station 'G4CUT/P' was again erected at Howlett's Hall Farm. There had been a meeting of interested parties at G3WHR's QTH previously, to arrange the necessary hauling and administration chores.

The work began on Saturday morning at 9 a.m. Two tents were erected, one for operating, the other a NAFFI facility. Four aerials were put up using the clubs Telomast and suitably sited trees. We did run into one problem with the clubs 3 element yagi, the hardware to hold the thing together was missing. G4FKH and G3PMX departed in search of the missing items; they were not found. However, G3PMX kindly lent us a set and we were able, between showers, to complete the aerial installations. The rig and operating position was ready for 15:00 hrs, giving time to tune the aerials in conjunction with an ATU. The various ATU settings were noted, hopefully allowing quick QSY'ing during the contest.

The contest proper started at 16:00 hrs and lasted for 24 hrs. We seemed to do well right from the offset this year, using both 10M and 160M to the full. 10M and 160M giving double points. I started the contest for a couple of hours, then left it to the others in the group to continue throughout the night, returning to site at 06:00. Breakfast was provided by G3WHR and very welcome it was too. Various operators worked throughout the day. Our total number of contacts this year was 582, being higher than I can ever remember. This was due to the high standard of operating, good band conditions and not least of all the excellent work done by the loggers.

The 160M long wire and the dipole not in use, were taken down during the day, the rest of the equipment was dismantled and the site cleared by 17:00 on the Sunday.

All in all this was a very pleasant weekend, with I believe a good result. Thanks are due to all the loggers, operators and helpers that assisted during the weekend. THANK YOU!

NFD RESULTS - Dick, G3WHR.

Band (MHz)	1.8	3.5	7.0	14	21	28	Total	QSO's
Claim 1987	640	344	414	334	32	276	2040	417
Actual 1987	632	320	414	330	32	266	1994	417
Claim 1988	708	344	590	213	292	676	2823	578

VISIT TO MARCONI MUSEUM

On Tuesday 21st June, 30 members visited the museum at Baddow. Our hosts, Roy Rodwell and Stan Wood, provided a most interesting tour of the well preserved exhibits from the early days of wireless. There has obviously been a great deal of hard work done to restore and document the items on display and we are sure that all those who attended enjoyed the most pleasant evening.

DF NEWS - Dick, G3WHR.

The 3rd Chelmsford event took place on 17 June, when G4PQY/P was the hidden station.

Unfortunately, this time the gremlins got to the hidden station first and discharged the transmitter battery. When no signals had been heard by 8.00 - several teams opened their envelopes and headed for the transmitter site. Alan (No signal) Williams had found a superb site near Pebmarsh and was not easy to find on-site. The problem was traced to low battery volts and a substitute 10V supply arranged by combining two teams torch batteries.

The hidden station was on the air by 8.30, which just allowed time, for those teams who had not opened their envelopes, to find the transmitter.

RESULTS

No points were awarded. A replacement event will be scheduled later in the year.

Future Events

1 July	Colchester	15 July	Chelmsford
10 July	RSGB Manchester	31 July	RSGB Mid-Thames

MEMBERS NEWS

The Society extends a welcome to two new members this month, Tom Frankland, G4INM and Arthur Utteridge, G0FFU.

Phil, G0ELM has unfortunately (for us) resigned from the Committee as he is leaving the district and migrating North. We would like to thank Phil very much for assisting the Committee since October 1986 and wish him well in his new appointment. Phil is the second Committee member to leave us since the AGM last October, Simon G6ZKG left the area at the end of last year, bearing this in mind it was decided to co-opt a replacement and we are pleased to say that Chris, G0IPU has agreed to join the Committee, welcome aboard Chris.

LAST MONTHS MEETING - Roy G3PMX.

Before the main proceedings we welcomed Pete, N4BHB and his wife Annette from Georgia who were visiting Bill G4JUW. Pete requested that we all contributed to his video recording by each in turn announcing our name and callsign in front of the camera....!!

We then continued with the Constructors' Competition, each competitor introducing their entry with a short talk on its salient points:-

Gwyn, G4FKH had designed and constructed an unusual morse key which has two finger pads for the dots and dashes respectively. The pads actuate micro-switches which drive I.C.'s to process the timing of the resulting morse signal.

Martin, G4T00 had made a V.H.F. Antenna Tuning Unit to match his 2 metre rig to a G5RV antenna. A nicely constructed unit with an excellent paint finish.

Richard, G4ICP had adapted a scrapped commercial power supply into a 12 volt regulated unit for amateur radio application. The electronics were complete but the covers had yet to be made and fitted.

Ken, G6WHY had constructed a very nice linear amplifier for 23 centimetres complete with high voltage power supply. With only the minimum of assistance he had been able to fabricate the valve cavity and tuning mechanism; the whole assembly being mounted on a heavy duty chassis. Ken was not able to show it in action because of all the peripherals required but assured us that 40 watts of useful R.F. could be generated.

Finally, Dick, G3WHR showed us the skeleton 160 metre Aerial Tuning Unit that he had constructed for the "any situation" encountered when setting up the hidden station for D.F. events. With a selection of hook-clips it is possible to match any length of wire to the transmitter either by series or parallel tuning.

Having seen all these entries the meeting adjourned for tea while the judges, Roy and Phil, considered the merits of each and place them in order for the prize giving.

The winners for the 1988 Constructors' Competition are:-

1st Prize	£7	Ken, G6WHY.	23cm Linear Amplifier.
2nd Prize	£5	Gwyn, G4FKH.	Morse Finger-keyer.
3rd Prize	£3	Martin, G4T00.	V.H.F. Antenna Tuner.
Novice Prize	£3	Richard, G4ICP.	Regulated P.S.U.

After the prize giving, Ken, G3WHY generously donated his prize to club funds.

R.S.G.B. EXHIBITION - N.E.C. Birmingham.

The coach has been booked for the trip on Saturday 16th July. The plan is to leave Writtle Duck Pond (car parking nearby) at 8.00am SHARP, to arrive in good time for the opening and to leave the N.E.C. at 5.00pm for the direct homeward journey. There are still some seats available so please spread as WIDELY as possible that 'Chelmsford' are running a coach and anybody wishing to join us should contact Andrew, G4KQE on (0376)83094 to reserve a seat and pay £1 deposit. At the time of going to press it is expected that the coach fare will be £7.50 (max!) per person + admission fee. We are hoping to arrange tickets in advance for those who have already booked, thus saving precious time in queuing on arrival. If we get more passengers, the fare will decrease proportionally.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The July Committee Meeting will be held in the Marconi College Residence at 7:30pm on Wednesday, 13th July. You are most welcome to join us.

73 from Roy & Ela Martyr, G3PMX & G6HKM

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Mashbury Road,
Great Waltham,
CM3 1EL.

MEMBERS ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

HEATHKIT SB102 Transceiver, Mains PSU, SB600 speaker and Remote VFO. £200

HEATHKIT IO-12U Oscilloscope, 4.5 MHz bandwidth, 12 cm screen. £10

C.M.HOWES HC-220 Transverter, 2 Metre to 20 Metre, £15

Bill Cole, G4JUW, Tel. Danbury 5748

FOR DISPOSAL

During the month we have received a phone call from a senior citizen, Mr L.Smith, ex.G8BAF who has some components and RSGB manuals that he no longer requires and wishes to sell at low cost. Any member interested can contact him during afternoon's on Witham 514912.

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